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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Addendum

INTRODUCTION

1. Since the publication of the 1990 working paper on the Turks and Caicos Islands (A/AC.109/1023 and Corr.1), the following additional data have become available from the information submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Secretary-General under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

I. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

2. The gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 8.4 per cent in 1986, compared to 32 per cent in 1985 and 15.4 per cent in 1984. The annual growth rates of GDP expenditure for the same period were 9.8 per cent, 29 per cent and 13.2 per cent, respectively.

B. Banking and commerce

3. In 1988, there were four banks on the islands with total assets of $82.4 million, as compared to five banks with total assets of $79.7 million in 1987.

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4. The number of company registrations increased to 6,729 in 1988 from 5,679 in 1987. A total of 298 business licences were issued during 1988, as compared to 191 in 1987 and 156 in 1986.

C. Foreign trade

5. For 1987/88, imports amounted to $33.3 million, $6.9 million of which was spent on food, drink and tobacco, $20.1 million on manufactured goods, $1.3 million on raw materials, $3 million on fuel and $2 million on other goods.

6. Exports for the same period amounted to $4.133 million, with $1.38 million earned for lobster products, $2.278 million for conch products, $456,000 for scalefish and $19,000 for other items.

D. Fisheries

7. For 1987/88, the annual lobster catch processed for export amounted to 192,326 kilograms, and that of conch, .72 million kilograms. Additionally, according to an estimate by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), some 453,600 kilograms of conch and a similar amount of scalefish are consumed domestically each year.

E. Telecommunications

8. Telephone subscribers in the islands increased from 1,266 in 1987/88 to 1,582 in 1988/89.

F. Transportation

9. In respect of air traffic movements, during 1988 a total of 39,919 landings and departures of aircraft were recorded, as compared to 33,432 in 1987.

10. Vehicle registrations increased from 2,006 to 2,331 in 1988.

G. Construction

11. During 1988/89, 370 new construction projects were approved at an estimated value of $67 million, as compared to 277 projects approved at $31 million during 1987/88. There were 83 projects for which construction was begun in 1988/89.

II. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

12. In 1989, there was an adult population of 4,885, of whom 4,043 were working, 573 were unemployed and 69 were economically inactive.

B. Health and social services

13. In 1988, there were 6 doctors, 34 nurses and midwives and 1 dentist on the islands. In the same year, the hospital treated 415 in-patients and 1,157 out-patients; and district clinics treated 25,600 patients.

C. Education

14. In 1988, there were 14 primary and 4 secondary schools, with 80 and 69 teachers, respectively. The enrolment was 1,484 students for primary and 810 for secondary schools; the student/teacher ratio was 18.5 for primary and 11.7 for secondary schools.